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LB 1115

drug courts in general. I could tell you stories of people I've met in drug court graduations and how grateful they are to these judges and the programs for helping them straighten out their lives. But instead of taking a lot of time with emotional stories, I simply ask for your support in advancing this bill. I want to point out that we've had to go through quite a few hoops, hurdles, bumps and bruises along the way to get to where we are today. And among those were, as I...as I stated earlier, addressing concerns of the Supreme Court, of the State Office of Probation, of local law enforcement, of the existing drug courts, but we've got through all these hurdles, we got through all these bumps and bruises and, quite frankly, I think we're getting closer to the final goal. There is one more hurdle, however, to cross, to surpass, and I'd like to discuss that just briefly here. Quite frankly, esteemed Senator Ernie Chambers has some questions about certain language in the bill, and I stated off the mike, now I would like to state on the mike that I fully intend to work with Senator Chambers to alleviate his concerns so that we can move this, between now and Select File, so that we can move this program forward. It's something the state of Nebraska really needs and I would adva...invite Senator Chambers later to speak to his concerns. And at this point in time, I would request that the...what do you call yourself?...the King Cobra retract his fangs. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you. Amendments to the bill. Committee amendments, Senator Brashear to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, the committee amendment does replace the bill as Senator Aguilar indicated and...but it furthers the intent of LB 1115 to recognize drug courts in the Nebraska statutes. Drug court program is defined as a program supervised by a court having special calendars or dockets designed to achieve a reduction in substance abuse and recidivism of criminal behavior among nonviolent offenders. That will be accomplished by supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, case management, and the use of appropriate sanctions and other rehabilitation. Under the committee amendment, Nebraska Supreme Court is charged